

Mr. Robert Arndt
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Dear Sir:

I have located what I believe may be the earliest use of the \$ sign insignia and it comes from what is now Syria. I previously wrote and had published "The Dollar \$ign: Its Written and Printed Origins" (American Numismatic Society, New York 1995). The earliest use I then reported was 1768 and now I have a use in 1670. The area of use was the Ottoman Empire and the word describing the coin is written in English as ABOKELPS. I do not know what language ABOKELPS is or comes from but it describes money payments made in Aleppo and Acra. The coin involved is the Lyon Dollar of the Netherland provinces which coins were used as trade coins throughout the Mediterranean region at that time.

I do not write for pay and am willing to coauthor a story for you with someone you may select who is versatile in the language involved and in Near East economic history. In my prior article I point out the development of numeral and monetary insignia when the use of the 0 introduced by the Arabs to the western world.

Please be kind enough to contact me or have someone do it and I think it will be mutually beneficial. My email is ericnumis@aol.com.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman